

The Epistle *E-news*

GRACE CHURCH

in New York City



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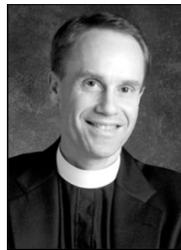
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Opportunities to Reach Out

JUNE 7, 14 – HELP REBUILD STATEN ISLAND Join teams from Grace Church for two parish work days, Saturdays June 7 and 14. Many jobs for multiple skill levels are available-- including insulation installation, sheetrock mudding, and cleanup. We'll schedule a celebration dinner and

June 1, 2014

The Seventh Sunday of Easter



Dear Friends,

Apparently I am something of a dinosaur, or a throwback, in that I still read an actual newspaper every morning printed in ink. Most people these days get their news not even on television anymore, but online. I too usually check various internet news sources later in the afternoon to find out what is happening in real time in the world outside my office. Online news allows the readers to "Join the Conversation," and type their wisdom into a comments section that follows most articles. Have you ever read one of these conversation lines? It is invariably a dive into the angry, misinformed ravings of conspiracy theorists who quickly resort to insulting attacks on anyone who disagrees with them. It is evidence that our public discourse has devolved into an ugly thing.

One of the words that is often used to describe our times is "polarized." People are poles apart on issues that really matter: gun control, the environment, human sexuality, immigration reform, how to fix the economy, just to name a few. In fact, I realize that merely by mentioning these issues I may have increased your anxiety level and caused you to raise your defenses. Am I about to lob an opinion at you that may differ from your own? "INCOMING!" you think, and wait for the explosion. Actually, I am not weighing in on anything at all, but only lamenting the plight of people who may wish to defend a middle

party after our work days, so sign up now! Email [Stephen Holton](mailto:Stephen.Holton) for more information or to sign up.

EPISCOPAL SOCIAL SERVICES SUIT DRIVE FOR YOUNG ADULTS – Now through June 15 – we will collect business attire and accessories for young adults in foster care. [ESS](#) provides professional development and job placement support to the youth in their care to ensure they achieve their full potential, in spite of the challenges they have faced in the past. We are collecting: like-new or new suits for both men and women of all sizes (as a courtesy, please dry clean before donating), as well as professional accessories such as leather folios, purses, briefcases, etc. *Please bring all donations to the nursery or contact [Melissa](#) for more information.*

Kids ages 4–12: VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL!



**WILDERNESS
ESCAPE!**
(June 30 – July 3)

way. It is as if they have ventured into the "no-man's land" of a World War One battlefield, between two entrenched opposing armies ready to cut them down without even listening.

Our speaker at this week's Sunday Forum is well qualified to examine the tenor of our times. John Avlon is a new Grace Church parishioner along with his wife Margaret and baby son Jack. John is the editor in chief of The Daily Beast and a CNN political analyst. His topic will be "Politics, Religion, and Radicals: the 21st Century's Polarizing Perfect Storm." You can read more about John below. Dare I say it? "Join the Conversation" this Sunday at 10 am in the Reception Room. Coffee is served.

See you in church.

[The Reverend J. Donald Waring](#)
Rector

This Sunday, June 1st

9 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Sermon: The J. Donald Waring
Music: The Parish Choir

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist
Sermon: The J. Donald Waring
Music: The Choir of Men and Boys

6 p.m. Holy Eucharist, in the Chantry
Sermon: The Rev. Mary Cat Young
Music: Hymns with instrumentalists

Service times are updated weekly on the [website](#).

POLITICS, RELIGION AND RADICALS: the 21st Century's Polarizing Perfect Storm – THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM. Among the challenges to religious faith in the 21st century are the strident voices from the far left and far right of the political and theological spectrums. It is widely recognized that these voices tear down and do not build up, yet the public's appetite for them seems insatiable. How can reasonable people take a more active role in



Through four days of Bible stories, games, and awesome activities the children will learn to trust God as they join Moses on the incredible journey through the wilderness and discover what it was like to live in the Israelite camp! All children aged 4-12 are welcome. Class will meet from 9 am-2 pm, followed by a favorite family movie and snacks from 2-4 pm. *Suggested donation of \$40/child for all four days. Children can come for a day or all four as schedules permit.*

JUNE 8 - The Sunday Forum @10AM
COMEDY AND BIBLE LESSONS FOR ALL AGES!



The Bible Players are a "Torah Comedy Duo," (that is, comic teachers of the Old Testament) that are sweeping the nation! They will perform an interactive and hilarious show based on popular bible stories. The Bible Players love to have all the adults and

defending the middle way?

Our speaker John Avlon is the editor in chief of The Daily Beast and a CNN political analyst. He is the author of *Independent Nation: How Centrists Can Change American Politics* and *Wingnuts: How the Lunatic Fringe is Hijacking America*.
<http://johnavlon.com>.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES for youth and adults conclude this week. We begin in the Reception Room with a light lunch at 12:45 pm and then move to our classes.

NEWCOMER CLASS CONTINUES. The final of a three-part session meets today with the Rector from 12:45 - 1:45 pm. Come to learn more about Christianity, the Episcopal Church, and Grace Church. A light lunch is served in the Reception Room, and then we'll move to the Music Room for the class.

JOIN THE ECW IN OUTREACH TO WOMEN AT THE NYC RESCUE MISSION, which now provides emergency shelter to women after 142 years of serving only men. *Today after the 11 am service, the ECW will assemble bags of travel sized toiletries donated by the people of Grace Church. Join us in Tuttle Hall!*

PLEASE SUPPORT THE CHOIRS' ANNUAL JUNE RAFFLE to benefit the Choir Special Projects Fund! You can purchase a raffle ticket today at coffee hour after the 11 am service, or from any choir family or chorister. The raffle includes many amazing items such as fine wines, iPads and also child friendly items. This fund supports activities and opportunities for the choirs that are not covered by the annual budget including such projects as the 2012 tour to Prague, Vienna and Salzburg and helps us work towards our next tour to France in the summer of 2015. Tickets are \$5 and \$10. Winners will be selected on June 8th at the parish picnic. Thank you for all your prayers and support.

COMING SOON

JUNE 8 - THE SUNDAY FORUM @10AM - COMEDY AND BIBLE LESSONS FOR ALL AGES (see description at left).

youngsters see their show together as there is something for everyone! For more info [click here](#).

JUNE 8 – THE ANNUAL PARISH PICNIC AND CHOIR RECOGNITION SUNDAY – All Grace Church parishioners and friends are welcome and encouraged to come to Huntington Close following the 11am service! Join us in celebration of the choir ministries of Grace Church and help bring our program year to a joyous and festive close. *Suggested donation at the door is \$10 per person. There are many ways to support this event so please sign up to help on the bulletin board outside the Reception Room or contact [Melissa](#).*

JUNE 11 – THE WASHINGTON NATIONAL CATHEDRAL Boy Choristers under the direction of Michael McCarthy will sing at the Six O'clock service of Holy Eucharist on Wednesday, June 11th. For this occasion the service has been moved into the Church.

JUNE 22 – THE RAGAZZI BOYS CHORUS under the direction of Joyce Keil from San Francisco will be our guest choir and sing at the 11 am service of Morning Prayer on Sunday, June 22nd.

JUNE 29 – THE CHOIR OF MEN & BOYS FROM CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, OTTAWA, CANADA, under the direction of Matthew Larkin, will sing at the Six O'clock service of Holy Eucharist on Sunday, June 29th. For this occasion the service has been moved into the Church.

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